Dear Sir/Ms,

Re        WET Rebate reform

We are small wine producers in the Pemberton Wine Region of WA. We own a small vineyard and send our grapes to a winery in Denmark to be made into wine for us, as we are too small to afford our own winery setup. We sell our wine mainly from our cellar door to tourists and local businesses. We are writing to you to ask for your support not to allow the implementation of the current WET Rebate reforms as outlined in the 2016/17 Budget.

In particular the change to the eligibility criteria for us to claim the WET Rebate will see us close our doors. We will be unable to compete with the large Australian wine businesses and cheap imports. As it is, it is difficult for us not having the economies of scale to produce wine at a competitive price.  However, we are small and pride ourselves on the quality of our wine and sell a selective quantity that we can afford to produce. But if we lose the rebate, the price of our wine would increase by nearly 30%, which would see us have to close down.

In our region there are a number of small vineyards and wine businesses. But they will not be the only ones affected by this proposed change. There will be a flow on affect to tourist businesses -  retail outlets, tourist activity businesses, cafes, restaurants and accommodation places. Wine tasting and visiting vineyards and cellar doors is an important tourist attraction in our region, which if forced to close will reduce tourist numbers so important to our survival. And then there is the loss of jobs due to closures and reduced tourist numbers.

Please support the Wines of WA Response to the WET Rebate – see attached – and allow small businesses like ours to survive.

Yours sincerely,

*Leanne and Alan Rowe*



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